

## Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 FDRE-00 SSO-00

INR-07 PM-03 CIAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 H-02 IO-10

SP-02 L-02 VO-03 AID-05 /070 W  
----- 123244

R 011130Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3650

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7864

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, TH, CB

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND: PETITION FROM PERSONNEL  
OF KHMER NATIONAL ARMED FORCES TO THE PRESIDENT.

REF: A) BANGKOK 7858

B) BANGKOK 7650

C) BANGKOK 7413

1. KHMER ARMED FORCES MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THAILAND HAVE  
DIRECTED A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT REQUESTING ASYLUM IN THE  
US. THESE MEN BROUGHT OUT WITH THEM MAP  
FUNDED US MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN A PLAN ENCOURAGED BY OFFICIALS  
OF THE USG PRIOR TO THE FALL OF PHNOM PENH. THE TEXT OF THE  
LETTERS FOLLOWS, WHICH WAS SIGNED BY 125 MEN WHOSE DEPENDENTS  
TOTAL 210.

2. QUOTE U TAPAO AFB, TENT CITY, APRIL 29TH, 1975  
MR. GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, DC, DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, WE, THE  
UNDERSIGNED ON THE ADJOINING LIST, PERSONNEL OF THE KHMER  
NATIONAL ARMED FORCES, HAVE THE HONOR TO PRESENT YOU THIS  
REQUEST WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. PARA AFTER FIVE YEARS OF TERRIBLE  
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STRUGGLE IN THE CAUSE OF IDEALS OF THE FREE WORLD,  
AGAINST THE INDOCHINESE COMMUNISTS, INVADERS OF THE KHMER  
REPUBLIC, WE ARE NOW, BY FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES, REFUGEES  
AT U TAPAO, THAILAND, PREFERRING LIBERTY TO COMMUNIST DOMIN-  
ATION. WE REFUSED TO LEAVE WHEN THE OCCASION WAS FAVORABLE  
TO DO SO, PREFERRING INSTEAD TO STAY AND FIGHT, WHICH WE DID,  
UNTIL THE LAST MINUTES OF THE REPUBLIC LIFE. WHEN WE DID  
LEAVE, UNDER FIRE, AND WE DID SO IN GOOD ORDER, WE BROUGHT  
OUT WITH US ALL THE U.S. PROVIDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT WE  
POSSIBLY COULD SO THAT IT COULD BE RETURNED TO THE PROPER  
AUTHORITIES. PARA WE SEE IN THE UNITED STATES, OUR ERSTWHILE  
BENEFACTORS, THE ONLY POSSIBLE ADOPTIVE COUNTRY, IN CONSONANCE  
WITH OUR IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS, IN WHICH WE COULD START A  
NEW LIFE IN DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY. PARA MOREOVER, WE HAVE  
LEARNED WITH PROFOUND EMOTION THAT THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT,  
WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SENATE, HAS AUTHORIZED THE  
IMMIGRATION OF 132,000 SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND KHMER REFUGEES TO  
THE UNITED STATES, WHICH REAFFIRMS OUR CONFIDENCE IN OUR FUTURE.  
PARA HOWEVER, CERTAIN OF OUR KHMER COMPATRIOTS, EMPLOYED BY  
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH BENEFIT FROM A SPECIAL  
TREATMENT ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT; THAT IS TO  
SAY, THEY WERE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE EVACUATED FROM  
PHNOM PENH WITH THE U.S. MISSION, AND HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF  
IMMIGRATION TO, AND EMPLOYMENT IN, THE UNITED STATES.  
WE, MILITARY MEN WHO WERE NOT SO FORTUNATE AND ONLY ESCAPED

WITH OUR LIVES AT THE LAST MINUTE, WOULD HOPE THAT COMPARABLE  
TREATMENT WILL BE ACCORDED US, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE  
TIRELESS SERVICE WE, AND ANY WHO MAY FOLLOW US, RENDERED  
IN GOOD FAITH TO OUR COUNTRY AND THE CAUSE OF FREE MEN  
EVERYWHERE. PARA IN THE HOPE OF OBTAINING A FAVORABLE  
RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST AND, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SINCE  
WE HAVE BEEN ALLOWED ONLY A SHORT TRANSIT PERIOD IN THAILAND,  
WE OFFER YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, OUR VERY BEST WISHES AND  
DEEPEST GRATITUDE. PARA ATTACHED IS A LIST OF KHMER MILITARY  
PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO ARE REQUESTING POLITICAL  
ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES. UNQUOTE.  
MASTERS

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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